

Thomas Jefferson to George Walker, March 1, 1792, with Copy, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Jefferson to Walker THOMAS JEFFERSON TO GEORGE WALKER

Philadelphia, March 1, 1792

Sir

I was sorry that, being from home at the time you were so good as to call upon me I missed seeing you. The president being engaged also, was equally unlucky. As you left no letter for me I took for granted that your negotiations with Mjr Lenfant had proved fruitless. After your departure the President sent Mr. Lear to Majr. Lenfant to see what could be made of him. He declared unequivocally that he would act on no condition but the dismissal of the Commissioners or his being made independent of them.—the latter being impossible under the law and the former too arrogant to be answered he was notified that his services were at an end. I think you have seen enough of his temper to satisfy yourself that he never could have acted under any control, not even that of the President himself: and on the whole I am persuaded the enterprise will advance more surely under a more temperate direction; under one that shall proceed as fast and no faster than it can pay. Measures will be take to procure plans for the public buildings, in which business five months have been lost in a dependance on Majr. Lenfant, who has made no preparations of that kind. I wish yourself and the inhabitants of Georgetown to be assured that every exertion will be made to advance and secure this enterprise.

I have the honor to be etc.

Library of Congress

Th: Jefferson.

[Elizabeth S. Kite, L'ENFANT AND WASHINGTON, pp. 156–57. Reprinted through the courtesy of the Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md.]